BACKGROUNDER NO. 1-0680 APRIL 29, 1976
BOB CHANCELLOR/RHODESIA

KISSINGER SPEECH: AFRICA REACTION

ANNCR:

ON TUESDAY (APRIL 27) IN LUSAKA SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER ANNOUNCED AMERICA'S UNRELENTING OPPOSITION TO THE WHITE MINORITY REGIME IN RHODESIA. VOA CORRESPONDENT BOB CHANCELLOR WAS THERE AND HAS THIS REPORT ON INITIAL REACTION IN SOME OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES MOST CLOSELY INVOLVED.

VOICE:

EARLY REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH OUTLINING A NEW AMERICAN POLICY SEEMS FAVORABLE IN BLACK AFRICA. AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, THERE IS SOME SKEPTICISM RESULTING FROM WHAT IS PERCEIVED AS YEARS OF AMERICAN NEGLECT AND A TENDENCY TO WAIT AND SEE HOW QUICKLY THE SECRETARY'S TEN POINT PROGRAM IS PUT INTO AFFECT.

THE SPEECH, CONSIDERED BY THE SECRETARY TO BE THE MOST IMPORTANT AMERICAN STATEMENT EVER MADE ON THE SUBJECT OF AFRICA, WON ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA'S IMMEDIATE ENDORSEMENT. ADMITTING THAT HE AS MOVED EMOTIONALLY BY DOCTOR KISSINGER'S SPEECH, PRESIDENT KAUNDA SAID IT MARKS AN IMPORTANT TURNING POINT FROM THE PAST. "THE PROGRAM YOU HAVE ENUNCIATED," PRESIDENT KAUNDA TOLD THE SECRETARY, "WILL GET OUR FULL SUPPORT." HOWEVER, PRESIDENT KAUNDA ADDED: "I HOPE ALL THE POINTS THAT YOU HAVE MADE CAN BE WORKED UPON AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE IN TERMS OF TIME, WE DON'T HAVE IT. I'M AFRAID

WE'RE AT ONE MINUTE PAST MIDNIGHT."

IT MAY HAVE BEEN PRESIDENT KAUNDA WHO PROMPTED THE AMERICAN REAPPRAISAL OF ITS AFRICAN POLICY, WHEN JUST A YEAR AGO HE TOOK THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF MAKING A SUBSTANTIVE POLITICAL STATEMENT DURING TOASTS AT A WHITE HOUSE DINNER IN HIS HONOR. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD SAID THEN THAT ZAMBIA AND AFRICA WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF AN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD AFRICA AND THAT LACK HAD GIVEN WHAT HE TERMED "PSYCHOLOGICAL COMFORT TO THE FORCES OF EVIL." HE WARNED OF THE GRAVE DANGERS INHERENT IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION.

FOLLOWING DOCTOR KISSINGER'S LUSAKA SPEECH, THE GOVERNMENT OWNED "ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL" SAID THE SECRETARY HAD COMMITED HIS COUNTRY AS AN ALLY OF THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS. SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASED WITH THE RECEPTION HIS SPEECH RECEIVED IN ZAMBIA. AND AMONG THE KISSINGER PARTY THERE ALSO WAS EXTREME SATISFACTION WITH THE SECRETARY'S MEETING THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH PRESIDENT JULIUS NYRERE OF TANZANIA, WHOSE APPROVAL OF THE NEW AMERICAN POLICY WAS CONSIDERED TO BE AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION. THERE WERE, IT WAS SAID, MANY MORE POINTS OF AGREEMENT THAN DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT NYRERE.

AN EDITORIAL IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED DAILY NEWS OF TANZANIA SAID THE KISSINGER POLICY STATEMENT WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE THAT AT LONG LAST THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO MOVE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. THE EDITORIAL ADDED, A POLICY STATEMENT IS A STATEMENT OF INTENT. FOR AMERICA

TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY THEREFORE, AFRICA WILL HAVE TO SEE, AND SEE QUICKLY CONCRETE AMERICAN ACTION TRANSLATING WHAT HAS BEEN SAID IN LUSAKA INTO TANGIBLE ACTION. THE ONLY NEGATIVE NOTE IN TANZANIA WAS A REPORT IN "UHURU" THE PARTY NEWSPAPER, WHICH SAID OBSERVERS IN LUSAKA CONSIDERED THE KISSINGER SPEECH TO BE MILD AND NON-COMMITAL AND YET ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT TO AFRICA, WHICH FELL SHORT OF AN EXPECTED MAJOR POLICY CHANGE.

THE REACTION IN RHODESIA HAS BEEN EXPECTEDLY UNFAVORABLE. PRIME MINISTER SMITH SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD COME TO AFRICA WITH PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT THE RHODESIAN SITUATION. THERE WAS NEGATIVE COMMENT ALSO IN PARTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS, SUCH AS THE PRO-GOVERNMENT "DIE VADERLAND" WHICH SAID DOCTOR KISSINGER HAS SUCCEEDED ONLY IN STIMULATING POLARIZATION BETWEEN WHITE AND BLACK IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. BUT THE OPPOSITION "NATAL WITNESS" IN DURBAN SAID THE KISSINGER SPEECH SHOWS A REALISTIC APPRECIATION OF THE ROLE AMERICA CAN AND SHOULD PLAY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

JS/PBM